



City of Annapolis
Office of Human Resources
145 Gorman Street, 2nd Fl
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MINUTES – HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING (HRC)
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011
ROGER MOYER RECREATION CENTER

PRESENT: M. Keller, Chairman J. Spencer M. Scott P. Schenck
D. Graham H. Leitch M. Doskow T. Boston R. Katchmar
D. Williams S. Kaisler
ANNAPOLIS CITY LIAISON: P. Rensted
ANNAPOLIS CITY COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST : E. Peterson
AA COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE: M. Heiss

EXCUSED: I. M. Sims E. Knight W. Mitchell

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/REPORT ON WORKSHOP AGENDAS AND MINUTES:

The Minutes are approved as read. Chair Keller pointed out changes (such as succinct wording) in the February Minutes meant to coincide with directives from the workshop of boards and commissions.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair Keller introduced Eugene Peterson, the new Community Relations Specialist for the City, who related his background. He will be in attendance at HRC meetings. Chair Keller also mentioned that, with the official end of Commissioner Soin's term, the Commission has one vacancy.

NEW BUSINESS:

A - SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Historian Janice Hayes-Williams detailed interesting historical facts indicative of the many stories about and contributions by black Americans through the centuries within Maryland, particularly locally.

B - OUTCOME OF FAIR HOUSING KT COMPLAINT: This took place 2/28/11. Commissioners ruled unanimously in favor of the Board of the Severn House Condominium Association and Victory Management.

C - REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS – BULLYING ISSUE: Commissioners Schenck and Spencer reported at length on a 2/25/11 meeting with AA County Board of Education staff members Lucia Martin (prevention of bullying and counseling of bullies/victims) and Teresa Tudor (working with parents of those bullied). Commissioner Spencer composed a written report from which a few high points follow: The State Board mandated that every county school district have a program designed to counter bullying. There was support for involvement by the HRC. If HRC sponsors a community program, it was recommended that it do so in October. Meeting with parochial and private schools might be in order. Thirty percent of students report being bullied at some point (consistent with national averages). Schools use Teaching Tolerance materials. Most high schools have Gay-Straight Alliances. It is agreed that teachers don't get enough training. Commissioner Schenck will contact Annapolis Education Committee Chair Jeff Macris to see if it shares our concern. Commissioner Spencer will contact Regional Assistant Superintendent Chris Truffer to let him know HRC's concerns.



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D - DIALOGUE PROJECT – BLOOMSBURY SQUARE/ST. JOHNS COLLEGE: Chair Keller and Commissioners Schenck and Scott reported that the second project went well with good conversations and a balance of participation between the two communities. Three more remain to be done. The Commission hopes to receive assistance from the City in identifying neighborhood “partners” for Robinwood, Annapolis Gardens and Newtowne 20.

E - HACA APPEALS BOARD: HACA Commissioner Cynthia Carter made contact with Commissioners Sims, Leitch, Scott and Boston, who had volunteered to help, saying HACA is ready to move on this.

F - REPORT ON “SOURCE OF INCOME” DISCUSSION AT FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM: Commissioner Schenck summarized the discussion of this issue at a workshop about fair housing. She reported that if a Section 8 voucher is not accepted it is considered discrimination.

G - BOARD AND COMMISSIONER WORKSHOPS: Chair Keller reported that the City will hold monthly workshops for members of Boards and Commissions. He distributed the tentative schedule. All Commissioners will be invited to attend. He shared the outcome of the first session about agendas, minutes and annual reports.

H - *ANNAPOLIS MOSAICS*: A segment was recently taped with the Director of the Center for Help.

I - REPORT ON AA COUNTY HRC – County HRC Commissioner Heiss reported.

J - CHAIR KELLER’S PRESENTATIONS TO CITY POLICE: March 8, 2011, will be the last presentation about bias incidents and hate crimes. He reiterated how well these segments have gone.

ADJOURNMENT: This took place at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted (via email to Chair Keller) – Jane Carr, Recording Secretary